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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1039

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SUBJECT: CRITIC LESLIE FIEDLER IN ROMANIA

1. "ASTOUNDING AND ENCHANTING" (LITERARY CRITIC, CONTEMPORANUL); "HE BRUSHES COBWEBS OUT OF YOUR MIND" (DEAN OF ENGLISH DEPT, UNIV. OF BUCHAREST); "INDISPENSABLE FOR THE WRITING OF MY OWN BOOKS" (SECRETARY, ROMANIAN WRITERS UNION); THESE ARE ONLY A FEW BUT HIGHLY REPRESENTATIVE ROMANIAN REACTIONS TO CURRENT VISIT OF U. S. LITERARY CRITIC LESLIE A. FIEDLER, WHOM POST HAS INTESIVELY PROGRAMMED DURING PERIOD MARCH 19-25.

2. ACTIVITIES TO DATE INCLUDE LECTURE IN UNIVERSITY WITH EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE TURNOUT OF STUDENTS PERMITTED TO ATTEND (EMBOFFS COUNTED 60), ROUND- TABLE DISCUSSION CUM LUNCHEON HOSTED BY WRITERS UNION (ONE MEMBER CONFIDED THAT "THIS OCCASION MOST STIMULATING OUR ORGANIZATION HAS EVER SEEN"), REPRESENTATIONAL DINNERS HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR AND PAO, SERIES OF INTERVIEWS BY ROMANIAN ROADIO, TV, AND WRITING PRESS, LECTURE TO INVITATIONAL AUDIENCE IN AMERICAN LIBRARY, AND RETURN VISIT TO UNIV. OF BUCHAREST FOR SCHOLARLY MEETING WITH FACULTY. FIEDLER'S PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES MARCH 22-23 LECTURES AND CONTACTS AT UNIVERSITY OF IASI COORDINATED BY FULBRIGHT LECTURER DONALD EULERT.

3. WHILE FORTHCOMING AIRGRAM WILL CONVEY FULLER DETAILS, EVALUATION, AND MEDIA COVERAGE FIEDLER VISIT, THERE IS LETTLE DOUBT THAT HIS PRESENCE HAS ALREADY HAD UNUSUALLY STRONG AND POSITIVE IMPACT AMONG KEY AUDIENCES HERE (INTRODUCING
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HIM TO FACULTY COLLEAGUES AT SECOND OF UNIV. OF BUCHAREST VISITS, DEAN FLATLY STATED " WE HAVE NEVER HAD A VISITING SPEAKER WHO HAS STIMULATED SUCH QUESTIONING, DISCUSSION, AND CONTROVERSY AMONG OUR STUDENTS"). THIS IMPACT, IN TURN, PROVIDES TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE FOLLOW- UP TO PREVIOUS " LITERARY" VISITS SUCH AS THOSE BY JAMES MICHENER, ARMOUR CRAIG, ERSKINE CALDWELL, ET AL.

4. REWORKING STANDARD FIEDLERIAN MATERIAL CONCERNING ARCHETYPAL THEMES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE, THE MYTHOPOETIC CONTENT OF POP CULTURE, AND THE CRITICAL FUNCTION IN GENERAL, HE INTRODUCED SOME INGENIOUS - AND WELL- RECEIVED - NOTIONS TO ACCOUNT FOR CURRENT PUBLIC FASCINATION IN AMERICA WITH THE DRACULA LEGEND, A SUBJECT OF SPECIAL RELEVANCE FOR ROMANIAN LISTENERS. ALONG THE WAY, A HOST OF WIDELY DIFFERING AMERICAN WRITERS RECEIVED PROMINENT AND STIMULATING MENTION, INCLUDING COOPER, MELVILLED, HEINLEIN, ED SANDERS, JOHN BARTH, AND KEN KESEY.

5. SEEMS FAIR TO SAY AT THIS POINT THAT FIEDLER AND HIS WORK NOW FUNCTIONING AS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE ONE- MAN CULTURAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS POST HAS EVER SPONSORED. PROVIDING WHAT MAY BE LESS BIASED SUPPORT FOR THIS VIEW IS REMARK BY ROMANIAN OFFICIAL IN COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION WHO MADE JOINT OF DRAWING EMBOFF ASIDE AT CONCLUSION OF FIEDLER' S PERFORMANCE IN AMERICAN LIBRARY AND STATING FOLLOWING: " WE APPRECIATE THE SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT PEOPLE YOU ARE BRINGING TO YOUR PROGRAMS HERE; INTRODUCING US TO SUCH FIGURES AS MICHENER, FINDLER, TOWNES, FIEDLER, AND SNODGRASS IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED."
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